

MINUTES
OF THE
SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
MUSCLE SHOALS STATE LINE
ASSOCIATION
OF THE
FREEWILL BAPTIST

HELD WITH
EAST FLORENCE CHURCH
FLORENCE, ALA.
SEPTEMBER 15, 16, 17, 18, 1927.

REV. JAMES B. BLOSS, MODERATOR
MRS. JAMES B. BLOSS, CLERK

NEXT ASSOCIATION CONVENES WITH STATE LINE
GROVE CHURCH, 8 MILES EAST OF LORETTO, TENN.,
IN LAWRENCE COUNTY, TENN., ON THURSDAY AT
7 P. M. BEFORE THE THIRD SUNDAY IN SEPT. 1928.

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The Muscle Shoals State Line Association
of the

FREEWILL BAPTISTS

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SESSION

Minutes of the seventh session of the Muscle Shoals State Line Association of the Freewill Baptist that convened with the East Florence Church, Florence, Ala., September 15, 16, 17, 18, 1927. Rev. J. B. Bloss Moderator, Mrs. J. B. Bloss Clerk. The next Association will meet with the State Line Church, 8 miles east of Loretto. Lawrence County, Tenn., on Thursday before the 3rd Sunday in September 1928 at 7 p. m. with Rev. J. B. Bloss, Moderator, Rev. W. C. Dowdy, Assistant Moderator, Mrs. J. B. Bloss Clerk.

THURSDAY NIGHT SESSION

The association met on Thursday night September 15, 1927 at 7 p. m. with East Florence Church under the gospel tent. Service was opened by singing No. 41. Prayer by Rev. J. A. Manasco. Next singing Over In The Glory Land, after which the praise service was conducted by Rev. J. A. Manasco, pastor of the Nazarene Church. After which the Tri City quartet sang three or four selections which was very much enjoyed by the large audience which was present. After this Bros. Vory Patrick and Houston Jones sang Put My Little Shoes Away.

Services were then turned over to Rev. George Kelley who brought us a wonderful message entitled (The Way). Text Isaiah 35-8-9-10. After the message an altar call was made with several conversions. Every one got blessed there was very much old fashioned shouting and praising God. After which all the delegates were assigned to homes. Then adjourned to meet Friday morning at 8:30 a. m.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The Association was called together at appointed time 8:45 a. m. by Moderator, Rev. George Kelley by singing, Singing Hallelujah and reading 20 Psalms. Prayer by Rev. J. D. Chappin. The association then proceeded to business as follows:

First—Reading the rules of order.

NEXT—Invited all visiting brothers and sisters to seats with us.

NEXT—In the absence of assistant Moderator, Rev. J. H. Johnson, Rev. J. B. Bloss was appointed in his place.

NEXT—Appointed a reading clerk to-wit Bro. Steve Kelley.

NEXT—Called for Intelligence from churches and received as follows:

East Florence—By letter and delegates to-wit: Bro. Joe Anthony Sister Mattie Coker, Sister Minnie Waltrop.

Cave Springs—By letter and delegates to-wit: Sisters Lucy Landers, Lillian Landers and Virgie Wallace.

Fellowship—By letter and delegates to-wit: Bros. Arthur Kelly, Will Lancaster and Sister Annie Kelly.

New Home—By letter and delegates to-wit: W. O. Palmer, Charlie

Palmer and Robt. Whitten.

Hickory Flat—By letter and delegates to-wit: Sister Mattie Goodman, Chestina Smotherman and Sister Ella Gray.

Iron City—By letter and delegates to-wit: Sister Ida Newman and Sister Tennie Ricketts.

State Line Grove—By letter and delegates to-wit: Bros. H. A. Cassel, H. C. Killen and Floyd Truitt.

Union Hill No. 1—By letter and delegates to-wit: Sister J. A. Barber, Bros. L. C. McCreless and L. K. Owsley.

Butlers Grove—By letter and delegates to-wit: Bros. John Jackson, L. N. Butler and Sam Holt.

Lopp Chapel—No intelligence.

Russellville—By letter and delegates to-wit: Bros. I. H. Conelison and C. Wilson.

Oak Grove—No intelligence.

Union Hill No. 2—No intelligence.

Highland—By letter.

New Hope—No intelligence.

Elk River Chapel—No intelligence.

Cordova—By letter and delegates to-wit: Bros. J. D. Carter and A. B. Poe.

Jasper—No intelligence.

Canaan—By letter and delegates to-wit: Sister Rebecca Clay, Sister Martha J. Crews.

Mt. Olive—By letter and delegates to-wit: Bros. E. L. McGee and T. H. Bunn.

Next—was moved and seconded and carried that Friendship, Pruitton, Macedoni and Maple Hill churches be dropped from our minutes.

Next—Called for petitionary letters and received as follows:

Sweetland Chapel—By letter and delegates to-wit: Bros. Elicia Medles, Willie Petty and Sister Myrtle Roberts.

Fredonia—By letter and delegates to-wit: Sister L. J. Mayfield.

After which they were given right hand of fellowship and welcomed into the association by Moderator.

Next—Roll was made of all preachers, deacons and delegates and found 69 present.

Next committees were appointed by Moderator as follows:

General Business—Rev. J. L. Arnold, Rev. J. B. Bloss, Bro. Oak Waltrop with Moderator and Clerk.

Education—Bro. J. L. McGee, Bro. L. T. Jones, Bro. J. W. Ricketts.

Sunday School—Sisters Dora Stafford, Ida Newman, and Myrtle Roberts.

Temperance—Rev. W. C. Dowdy, Bro. W. J. Wright and Bro. A. D. Goodman.

Obituary—Bro. John Morton, Bro. G. E. Riggs and Bro. R. L. Wright.

Finance—Rev. J. S. Ricketts, Bro. Sam Holt and Sister J. B. Bloss.

Miscellaneous—Rev. J. D. Chappin, Rev. Tom Arnold and Bro. W. N. Kelley.

Next—Called for election of officers. Rev. J. B. Bloss was elected Moderator, Rev. W. C. Dowdy, Assistant Moderator and Mrs. J. B. Bloss

Clerk, after which we adjourned for preaching service at 11 a. m. Preaching service was opened by singing No. 33 "Love Works Wonders" prayer by Sister Dora Stafford. Preaching by Rev. J. L. Arnold and Rev. G. B. Wooten. Text Luke 6—46.

The sermons were very much enjoyed by all present, they then sang No. 34 "Will You Meet Me In Heaven" and had an old fashioned hand shake every one seemed to get blessed and shouted in the old fashioned way.

We were then dismissed by Rev. L. A. Thomberg pastor of the M. E. Church of East Florence. We were then given a good dinner by the Ladies Aid Society of the East Florence Church.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The association was called to order at 2 p. m. by Moderator and singing No. 45 "While The Years Roll On," prayer by Rev. Jim Arnold, after which Moderator read 103 Psalm, then preceded to business as follows: First roll call found 71 present, 1 absent.

Next—Motion was made, seconded and carried that we adjourn the association in order for committees to make their report and that the presbytery be convened for their annual business. The proceedings of the presbytery are as follows:

The presbytery was opened by prayer by Rev. George Kelley. 1st roll call found 31 present. Next read minutes of the proceedings of the presbytery of the various 5th Sunday meetings held during the year. The reports were unanimously adopted by the presbytery. Next it was moved, seconded and carried that we examine any deacons or ministers for ordination. Next Moderator appointed Rev. George Kelley and Rev. W. C. Dowdy as examining board for this purpose. The following men were found present.

Bro. A. J. Lambert recommended by Cordova Church as minister, Bro. C. Wilson from Russellville Church as deacon. Bro. J. E. Rayburn from East Florence church as deacon. Bro. T. H. Bunn, E. L. McGee Mt. Olive church as deacons. Bro. Sam Holt from Butlers Grove church as deacon. Bros. Bell McGee and W. O. Palmer from New Home as deacons. After these brothers had passed a rigid examination by the examining board assisted by Moderator and had been instructed as to their duties as ministers and deacons. They were very impressively ordained by prayer and laying on of hands according to Acts 6-6.

Next—Moved, seconded and carried that we elect Moderator and Clerk of the presbytery, Rev. W. C. Dowdy as Moderator, Rev. B. H. Coker, Clerk.

Next—The new Moderator appointed Rev. John Arnold Moderator of southern district, Bro. L. C. McCreless clerk.

The next 5th Sunday meeting for this district would be at Union Hill No. 1. Rev. J. D. Chappin Moderator of Eastern district. The Moderator of presebytery will preside over the northern district. The next 5th Sunday meeting of northern district at Fellowship Church.

Next Colonel Pendleton of Manchester was granted license to preach

Next—Rev. J. B. Bloss and Rev. G. B. Wooten were granted ordination papers on the account of old ones being lost.

Next—The ministers of this body were examined as to their minis-

terial and christian standing. All these found on another page of the minute book were found in good standing and granted cards for the ensuing year. The next two paragraphs were passed by the presbytery in session at Russellville September 18, 1926 which reads as follows.

Next moved, seconded and carried that we receive no more new ministers in our association that use tobacco in any form.

Next it was moved, seconded and carried that any minister or deacon being charged with misconduct or any charges brought against him shall first be dealt with by his own church and if presbytery is called together for trial of said minister or deacon this trial must be held at church where his membership is held.

Next moved, seconded and carried we adjourn for preaching service at night.

Rev. W. C. Dowdy, Moderator.

Rev. B. H. Coker, Clerk.

FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION

The services were opened by the pastor, Rev. J. B. Bloss and singing No. 76 "Traveling Home" prayer by Rev. G. B. Wooten after which the Tri Cities quartet sang several selections, which was enjoyed by the entire congregation. Sister Dora Stafford then brought the message of the hour. Text 1 King 18-24. after which they sang "Rescue the Perishing" with alter call several responded. After alter services the doors of the church was opened one member was received in East Florence Church. Delegates were then assigned to homes, congregation was dismissed until Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The association was called to order 8:30 a. m. by Moderator Rev. J. B. Bloss and singing "I'll Pray For You You Pray For Me." The Moderator then read 1 John 3. After which were lead in prayer by Bro. John Arnold. Then sang "The Promised Land" with old fashioned hand shake, many were rejoicing in the Savior's love.

Then proceeded to business as follows: 1st roll call found 65 present and 6 absent.

Next the reports of the following committees were received.

General Business: We the committee of General Business beg leave to report that we take up the regular line of business we recommend that this association put an evangelist in the field and that each church in this association use him for the upbuilding of the church and for the salvation of the lost world. We recommend that we retain the Home Mission board and that this evangelist assist each pastor in raising the Home Mission money and that we put a man out to visit the churches and organize Sunday schools to be known as Sunday School Evangelist and that this association support him. We recommend that we receive all members by right hand of fellowship and will not be voted in. We recommend that each church have a weekly prayer meeting and that the head of each family have family prayer in their home.

Rev. J. L. Arnold, Chairman.

The report was adopted. Rev. J. L. Arnold was elected as the associational evangelist and also to do the work of the Sunday school evangelist.

Education: We your committee on education beg leave to submit the following. Seeing the need of the age in which we live, we recommend our ministers to use every effort possible to obtain a literary education. We recommend that preachers be God called preachers and as Paul said "My speech and my preaching were not with enticing words of men's wisdom but in demonstration of the spirit and of power which things also we speak not in the words which more wisdom teaches but which the Holy Ghost teaches." We recommend that the ministers will not depend altogether on education but stay on their knees before God until they are indued with power from on high.

J. L. McGee, Chairman.

Report was unanimously by adopted.

Sunday School. We the committee on Sunday School beg leave to urge every church in this association to organize a Sunday School and insist that each member of the church with their family attend every Sunday possible. We also recommend that they use Freewill Baptist literature and that every teacher be a good consecrated christian and that each Sunday school make a report to the association.

Sister Dora Stafford, Chairman.

This report was unanimously adopted.

Temperance. We your committee on temperance beg leave to submit the following. We recommend that all members abstain from all strong drinks and teach our children so when they get old will not depart from it, and that our ministers preach against this great evil and all members do all they can against it and that they all be temperate in their homes, and abroad and kind to both saint and sinner and that we also secure good religious literature for our children to read and that we abstain from all appearance of evil and help build up the Master's kingdom on earth. That our ministers abstain from worldly amusements and preach the word and warn sinners to flee from wrath to come.

W. J. Wright

A. D. Goodman.

This report was adopted by majority present.

Obituary. We the committee on obituary beg leave to report the following. The tireless reaper has entered our homes and churches and taken from us nine brothers and sisters as follows: State Line Grove Sister Emma Garrison; Hickory Flat, Lydia Gray; New Home Brother Bruce Cooper; Union Hill No. 1, Sister Irene Waltrop; Iron City, Brother Warnie Cottrell; Russellville, Bro. J. R. Moore; Mt. Olive, Bro. W. M. Forest; Cordova, Sister Ruby Stevenson; Cave Springs, Sister Woodard.

The bereaved have our heart felt sympathy and we feel that our loss is their eternal gain for precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

Rev. John Morton, Chairman.

This report was unanimously adopted.

Home Mission Board report received and adopted.

Finance Committee. We the finance committee beg leave to report that we have on hand \$73.38.

Sister Pearl Bloss, Chairman.

This report was unanimously adopted.

Next the report of ministers were received and adopted. Will be

listed on statistical table in this minute.

Next moved, seconded and carried we adjourn for preaching services. Preaching services opened by singing "It Pays to Follow Jesus."

Prayer by Rev. Ed Caperton. Preaching by Rev. Steve Kelly followed by Rev. John Morton. Text Gal.6-7. Preaching was very much enjoyed by all after which we had an old fashioned hand shake with much rejoicing. After which we were dismissed for dinner on the ground.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Convened at 2 p. m. Moderator in chair the session was opened by singing "I'm Bound For Glory." After which the Moderator read 2 Titus. Prayer by Bro. J. W. Parker. Then proceeded to business as follows, roll call 64 present, 12 absent.

Next received letter from Mt. Olivet church recommending E. M. Troglin to be licensed to preach the gospel. After being examined by Moderator it was moved and seconded and carried to grant him license.

Next received letter from Mt. Olive church to be ordained, Henry Goynes for deacon. After passing required examination he was impressively ordained by prayer and laying on hands according to Acts 6-6.

Next moved, seconded and carried that the clerk, Sister J. B. Bloss assisted by Rev. J. B. Bloss be authorized to attend to the printing of the minutes and distributing same that they have 700 minutes printed and will be allowed \$15.00 for their services.

Next moved seconded and carried that Rev. J. L. Arnold be granted evangelistic papers from this association.

Next it was moved and seconded that the time of the association be changed from Thursday before the 3rd Sunday in September to Thursday before the 3rd Sunday in October. After some very interesting talks on this the vote was taken and lost by good majority.

Next Cave Springs, State Line Grove and Cordova churches having called for the association another year, the result was Cave Springs 18 votes, State Line Grove 38 votes and Cordova 5 notes. State Line Grove having the majority, the association will meet there on Thursday before the 3rd Sunday in September 1928. At 7 p. m. the introductory sermon will be preached by Moderator Rev. J. B. Bloss.

Next called for report of Miscellaneous Committee. This committee had nothing to report only a report of thanks. We as a body offer E. Florence Church and the people of Florence as a whole our sincere thanks for the entertainment and hospitality shown each of us during our stay in your homes. May the blessing from on high ever be with you good people until our dear Lord shall call you home to ever live with Him and may each of you be like a tree planted by the rivers of water and what so ever you do shall prosper. We love the Freewill Baptist people and our aim is to do business for the Master and we want our churches clean and holy as Christ is the church.

Rev. J. D. Chappin, chairman.

Next the Union was perpetuated by singing "God Be With Us Till We Meet Again" and an old fashioned handshake after which we adjourned for night service.

SATURDAY NIGHT SESSION

Saturday night session was opened by singing "His Love Is All I

Need" prayer by Rev. Nichols, minister of the Missionary Baptist Church. After which we had a wonderful praise service conducted by Rev. B. H. Coker assisted by Bro. J. J. Gray after which Rev. J. D. Chappin sang a solo entitled "It's Real." Preaching by Rev. J. D. Chappin Col. 3-1-4. Brother Chappin brought us a wonderful message which seemed to reach the people after which made altar call. After being filled many prayed through and shouted the victory. Dismissed for Sunday morning services.

SUNDAY MORNING SESSION

Services were opened by singing "He Knows How". Prayer by Rev. Parker of the Nazarene Church preaching by Rev. J. B. Bloss. Text Eph. 5-1. After preaching altar call made, two being saved. The services was then dismissed for the baptizing in the afternoon at which time ten were baptized by Rev. J. B. Bloss pastor of East Florence Church.

SUNDAY NIGHT SESSION

Services were opened by singing "Riding the Billows For Home." Prayer by Sister Dora Stafford. Testimonial services was held by Sister Stafford, preaching services was conducted by Rev. J. B. Bloss. Text St. Luke 15-18. After preaching services the association adjourned to meet with the State Line Grove Church on Thursday night before the third Sunday in September 1928 at 7 p. m. May God bless and keep you all true to Him another year.

Rev. J. B. Bloss, Moderator.

Rev. W. C. Dowdy, Ass't Mod.

Sister J. B. Bloss, Clerk.

CHURCHES — PASTORS — ADDRESSES

East Florence—J. B. Bloss, 706 Atlanta Ave., Sheffield, Ala.
 Cave Springs—J. B. Bloss, 706 Atlanta Ave., Sheffield, Ala.
 Fellowship—W. S. Kelley, Iron City, Tenn., Route 2.
 New Home—Ed Caperton, Iron City, Tenn., Route 2.
 Hickory Flat—Geo. Kelley, Iron City, Tenn., Route 2.
 Iron City—Geo. Kelley, Iron City, Tenn., Route 2.
 State Line Grove—Geo. Kelley, Iron City, Tenn., Route 2.
 Union Hill No. 1.—J. L. Arnold, Haleyville, Ala., Route 1.
 Butlers Grove—Ed Caperton, Iron City, Tenn., Route 2.
 Russellville—W. C. Dowdy, Florence, Ala., Royal Ave.
 Highland—Ed Caperton, Iron City, Tenn., Route 2.
 Cordova—George Kelley, Iron City, Tenn., Route 2.
 Oak Grove—W. S. Kelley, Iron City, Tenn., Route 2.
 Canaan—Ed Caperton, Iron City, Tenn., Route 2.
 Mt. Olive—G. B. Wooten, 203 King St., Huntsville, Ala.
 Sweetland Chapel—J. D. Chappin, Manchester, Tenn.
 Fredonia—J. D. Chappin, Manchester, Tenn.

CHURCHES — CLERKS — ADDRESSES

East Florence—Sister Mattie Coker, Florence Ala.
 Cave Springs—Ernest M. Movish, Mt. Hope, Ala., Route Two.
 Fellowship—Richard C. Kelley, Iron City, Tenn., Route Two.
 New Home—Robt. Whitten, Florence, Ala., Route Six.
 Hickory Flat—R. L. Wright, Lexington, Ala., Route 3.

Iron City—Tennessee Wood, Iron City, Tenn.
 State Line Grove—A. J. Mashburn, Loretto, Tenn., Route Four.
 Union Hill No. 1—L. C. McCulless, Haleyville, Ala., Route Three.
 Butlers Grove—Luther Butler, Iron City, Tenn., Route Two.
 Russellville—O. H. Ross, Russellville, Alabama.
 Highland—T. B. Serett, Ruppertown, Tenn., Route One.
 Cordova—Cecil King, Cordova, Alabama.
 Oak Grove—James V. Dimico, Collinwood, Tenn., Route One.
 Canaan—Dolph Crews—Ruppertown, Tenn., Route One.
 Mt. Olive—Delia Forest, 203 King St., Huntsville, Ala.
 Sweetland Chapel—Myrtle Roberts, Manchester, Tenn.
 Freedonia—Mrs. Alice Elrod, Manchester, Tenn., Route Five.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND ADDRESSES

W. C. Dowdy—Florence, Ala., Royal Ave 324.
 J. B. Bloss—706 Atlanta Ave., Sheffield, Ala.
 J. L. Arnold—Haleyville, Ala., Route One.
 G. B. Wooten—Huntsville, Ala., 203 King street.
 Ed Caperton—Iron City, Tenn., Route Two.
 John Morton—Huntsville, Alabama.
 Geo. Kelley—Iron City, Tenn., Route Two.
 J D. Chappin—Manchester, Tenn.
 J. S. Ricketts—Iron City, Tenn.
 Brice Coker—Florence, Alabama.
 Dora Stafford—Gainesville, Fla.
 A. J. Lambert—Cordova, Alabama.

ORDAINED MINISTERS RETAINED WITH HONORARY CARD

Tom Arnold—Haleyville, Alabama.
 J. J. Warren—Collinwood, Tennessee.
 M. M. Summers—Leighton, Alabama.

LICENSED MINISTERS AND ADDRESSES

W. S. Kelley—Iron City, Tenn., Route Two.
 A. R. Smith—Cordova, Alabama.
 Colonel Pendleton—Manchester, Tenn.
 E. M. Troglin—Huntsville, Alabama.
 J. L. Davis—Haleyville, Ala., Route Three.
 D. H. Simmons—Haleyville, Ala., Route Three.

HOME MISSION BOARD

J. B. Bloss, chairman, Sheffield, Alabama.
 L O. Waltrop, secretary, Florence, Alabama.
 W. C. Dowdy, treasurer, Florence, Alabama

FORM OF CHURCH LETTER

We, the Freewill Baptist Church of Christ, at
, send greetings to the Ministers and Mes
 sengers composing the Muscle Shoals State Line Association of the
 Freewill Baptists, when convened with
 Church. We send our beloved, towit:

.....to sit with you in your deliberations and help to transact any legal business that may come before your Honorable Body. The statistics of our Church are as follows:

Received by experience; by letter; by confession; by restoration; dismissed by letter; expelled; dead; total membership; contributions \$.....

We have elected Elder to pastoral care of our Church the ensuing year; No. of Deacons; No. of Ordained Ministers; No. of Licentiates; Church Property \$.....; Amount given Pastor \$.....; Amount given Evangelist \$.....; Amount given Home Mission \$.....; Other Expenses \$.....

Clerk's Address Moderator's Address; Our Meeting Days; Pastor Clerk

Remarks:
.....
.....

FORM OF CHURCH LETTER OF DISMISSION

We, the Freewill Baptist Church of Christ at..... do hereby certify that brother or sister is a member in good standing with us and is dismissed by us when joined to any other Church of their choice.

Moderator; Church Clerk.....

CHURCH RULES

The following rules were adopted:

1. We agree to meet in conference to transact the business of the church once every month, and oftener if necessary.
2. A Moderator shall be chosen by the suffrage of the church, who shall observe good order and explain all questions before he takes the voice of the church on them and shall have the liberty of speech as any other, but no vote unless there be a tie, when he shall have the casting vote.
3. It shall be the duty of all male members to fill their seats in conference and bear their part of the expense of the church.
4. No male member shall leave his seat during conference without permission from the Moderator.
5. No member shall arraign another before the church for any grievance without first taking gospel steps.
6. All business brought before the church by motion and second in gospel-like order shall be attended to by the church unless withdrawn by the mover.
7. Any person wishing to speak shall arise from his seat and address the Moderator; and if two arise at the same time the Moderator shall decide who shall speak first; and no member while speaking shall cast any reflections on any person; but adhere strictly to the subject under consideration.

8. No member shall speak more than twice on any subject without permission from the church.

9. It shall be the duty of all church members to be present at any church meeting to vote on all questions before the church, called on by the Moderator or any member of the church who may desire to obtain the mind of the whole church.

10. If any member shall remain silent during the transaction of any business of the church and afterward complain of what was done, the same shall be deemed disorder, and the member so offending shall be dealt with accordingly.

11. The members of the church shall not talk about one another slanderously, and shall not give any report circulation that may arise against any church member, but shall make it known to the one the report is against and to no one else; and any member doing otherwise shall be dealt with accordingly.

12. We agree to do all business by a majority of the members present at any time.

13. We have but one mode of baptism and that is immersion, and will not accept any other as baptism.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ and adopted the word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another, by the will of God in this solemn covenant. We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things; to avoid all appearance of evil; to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world; from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions and social worship; and by self denial, faith and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling together for church conference, public worship and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor and all its benevolent work. We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the spirit" in the bonds of peace; to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and, as far as we are able, promote the success of the Church and of the Gospel. We will everywhere hold the Christian principles sacred and Christian obligations supreme, counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society, constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, support of missions, the success of the Sabbath Schools and evangelistic efforts for salvation of souls and conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

RULES OF THE ORDER

1st—The Association when met shall be opened and closed with singing and prayer.

2nd—Only one person shall speak at a time and he shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator.

3rd—A person shall not be interrupted by anyone except the Moderator until he is done speaking, nor shall the Moderator unless he break the order.

4th—The person speaking shall adhere to the subject in question and shall not cast any personal reflections on him who may have spoken before.

5th—No person shall speak more than three times on any subject without leave of the Association.

6th—No member shall laugh or whisper in the time of public speech.

7th—Members shall address each other by the appellation of brother or brothers.

8th—No members shall absent himself from the Association without leave.

9th—The names of the members of the Association shall be enrolled and called over as often as the Association may think necessary.

10th—No person shall speak more than five minutes at any one time without leave from the Association.

11th—Any person who shall knowingly break any of these rules shall be reproved by the Moderator according to the direction of the Association.

12th—The Association shall vote by a ballot where the next Association shall be held until one Church gets a majority of votes cast.

13th—Every member of this body shall vote for or against every name that comes before it. When they fail to do this they shall be reprimanded by Moderator.

CONSTITUTION

Be it known that we, the Freewill Baptist Church of Christ, being in the states of Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi, do believe in the doctrine of the general atonement; we have been baptized on a profession in Christ, and we are desirous of bringing about a reciprocal union; we propose to maintain the Order and Rules of our Association according to the following plan:

Article 1.—We believe the Churches of Christ are mutually independent of each other; that a congregational form of church government should be invariably preserved; yet we being convinced of the utility of friendly intercourse and pious counsel on principles of union advantage and Christian love hold it a duty of the churches to pay respect to principles with regard to the duty of the Association.

Article 2.—The Association shall be composed of all ministers and ordained deacons and not more than 3 delegates chosen by the different churches in our union, who producing letters from respective churches, certifying their appointments, shall be entitled to seats.

Article 3.—The letters so produced shall express the condition of these churches respectively—that is the number of members in fellowship, the number received, excluded and died since last Association.

Article 4.—This body shall have no conceived power to lord it over God's heritage or infringe on any of the internal privileges or rights by the churches in our Union; but shall only be considered an advisory council in all things pertaining to the internal concerns of the church.

Article 5.—The Association is to give the best advice it can in all matters of difficulty. If the Union be broken between any of the churches, said association shall inquire into the cause of the breach and use its best endeavor to remove the difficulty, but if the breach cannot be removed, to withdraw from the churches which they may look upon as unsound in principle or disorderly in conduct or practice until they be reclaimed.

Article 6.—To take up no case of any kind in the Union without the consent of a majority of the churches and then only to give advice.

Article 7.—Any church may be admitted into the Association by letter and delegate, and if upon examination it is found orthodox and orderly, such admission shall be manifested by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to the delegate thereof.

Article 8.—The Association, when properly organized for business shall consist of Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by the Suffrage of the members present. And the duty of the Moderator shall be to keep the Association in order, state questions fairly and take the minds thereon, to have no vote unless the Association be equally divided, in which he shall have the deciding vote. And the duty of the clerk shall be to keep a fair record of the proceedings of the Association.

Article 9.—No query shall be received by the Association from any Church unless it shall have been acted upon in said church and cannot be settled, in which case the Association shall take up the same and act upon it.

Article 10.—Every motion and second shall be attended to unless with drawn by the mover.

Article 11.—We agree to settle all our business by a majority of the members present.

Article 12.—The Association shall have the power to sit as an advisory council, give the churches all necessary advice in matters of difficulty, to inquire into the cause of churches neglecting to represent themselves in the Association, to appoint any member or members with their consent to transact any business they judge necessary, to invite any visiting brethren in the ministry to a seat with the Association, to adjourn the Association at any place that may be deemed necessary, to exclude from his seat any member who will not conform to the rules and decorum and shall report his or her conduct to the church for which they were delegates.

Article 13.—This constitution may be altered or amended by a majority vote of any regular meeting if the proposed amendment shall have been presented at the last preceding regular meeting and approved by that body and published in the minutes with notice that it will be acted upon at the next meeting.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1st.—We believe there is but one living, true eternal God, the Father of whom are all things from everlasting, to everlasting, glorious and

immaculate in all His attributes.—1 Cor. 8:6, Isa. 40:28.

2nd—We believe that there is only one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, the only begotten Son of God, born to the Virgin Mary, whom God freely sent into this world because of the great love wherewith He loved the world; and Christ as freely gave himself a ransom for all, tasting death for every man; who was buried and rose again the third day; and ascended into Heaven, from whence we look for him the second time in the clouds of Heaven at the last day to judge both quick and dead.—1 Tim. 2:5, 6; Heb. 2:9; St. John 3:16; Rev. 1:7; Acts 24:15; 1 John 2:3.

3rd—We believe that there is one Holy Ghost, the precious gift of the Father through His dear Son, unto the world, who quickeneth and draweth sinners home to God.—St. John 16:7, 8; Acts 2:4; Eph. 2:1; Eph. 4:4-6.

4th—We believe in the beginning God made man upright, and placed him in a state of glory without the least mixture of misery from which he voluntarily, by transgression fell, and by that means brought on himself a miserable and mortal state, subject to death.—Gen. 2:17. 3:19.

5th—We believe that God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance and the knowledge of truth, that they might be saved; for which end God hath commanded the Gospel to be preached among all nations and to every creature.—Mark 16:15; Luke 24:17; John 3:15, 17; 1 Tim. 2:4.

6th—We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for want of Christ who died for him but as the Scripture has said, for denying the Lord that bought them; because they believed not in the name of the only begotten Son of God. Unbelief, therefore, being the cause why the just and righteous God of Heaven will condemn the children of men; it follows against all argument that all men, at one time or other, are found in such capacity as that through grace of God they may be eternally saved.—Acts 17:30; Mark 6:6; Heb. 3:10, 1 John 5:10.

7th—We believe the whole Scriptures are infallibly true, and that they are the only rule of faith and practice. 2nd Tim. 3:16, 17.

8th—We believe in the doctrine of General Provision made of God in Christ for the benefit of all mankind, who repent and believe the Gospel—Luke 14:16-20; Matt 28:19, 20; Luke 13:3-5; Luke 24:47; Acts 3:19; Mark 1:15.

9th—We believe that sinners are drawn to God, the Father, by the Holy Ghost, through Christ, His Son, and that the Holy Ghost offers His divine aid and to all the human family, so as they all might be happy, would they give place to His divine teachings; whereas, such who do not receive divine impressons of His Holy Spirit, shall at a future day, own their condemnation just, and charge themselves with their own damnation for willfully rejecting offers of sovereign grace.—Matt. 11:27; St. John 6:45-65; Ps. 1:1-12; Jer. 22:20.

10th—We believe that men, not considered simply as men, but ungodly men, were of old ordained condemnation, considered such who turn the grace of God to lasciviousness, denying the old Lord God our Lord Jesus Christ who bought them, and therefore, shall bring upon themselves swift destruction, but we observe that they, and such, the Apostle

faith, because they receive not the love of truth, that they might be saved, therefore, the indignation and wrath of God upon every soul of man that doeth evil, living and dying therein; for there is no respect of person with God.—Jude 1:14; 2nd Pet. 2:2; 2nd Thes. 2:11-12; Rom. 2:9-11.

11th—We believe that all children dying in infancy, having not actually transgressed against the law of God, in their own persons are only subject to the first death, brought to them by the fall of the first Adam and not that any of them dying in that state, shall suffer punishment in hell by the guilt of Adam's sin, "for of such is the kingdom of God."—1 Cor. 15:22; Matt. 18:2-5; Mark 9:36; Matt. 19:23.

12th—We believe that good works are the fruits of saving faith, and that in the use of the means of grace and not of those means as eternal life is promised to men.—Rev. 22:14; Isa. 1:19-20; Matt. 7:8; Jer. 6:16; Luke 13:34, 35.

13th—We believe that no man has any warrant in the Holy Scriptures for justification before God through his own work, power or ability, which he has in and of himself only as he by grace is made able to come to God through Jesus Christ believing the righteousness of Jesus Christ to be imputed to all believers for their eternal acceptance with God.—Rom. 4:24; Acts 8:20, 21.

14th—We believe all things are foreseen in the wisdom of God so that God knoweth whatsoever can or cannot come to pass upon all Supposed conditions; yet not as having decreed any person to everlasting life, out of respect or mere choice, further than He hath appointed the godly unto life, and the ungodly, who die in sin, unto death.—Heb. 4:13; Prov. 8:22-31; Matt. 25:31-16.

15th—We believe as touching gospel ordinances in believers' baptism, laying on of hands, receiving of the sacrament in bread and wine, washing of saints' feet, anointing the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, fasting, prayer, singing praise to God, and the public ministry of the Word, with every institution of the Lord we shall find in the New Testament.—Mark 16:15; Acts 8:17; Acts 19:6; Luke 22:19, 20; John 13:5-17; Jas. 5:14.

16th—We believe the Gospel mode of baptism is by immersion, and that the believers are the only subjects for baptism.—Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:9, 10; Acts 2:38, 39; Rom. 6:4; Col 2:12.

17th—We believe in a general resurrection of the dead and a final Judgment at the last day.—John 5:28; 2nd Cor. 5:10.

18th—We believe the happiness of the righteousness is eternal and the torments of the wicked are endless. Matt. 25:45.

CONSTITUTION OF THE PRESBYTERY

1st.—Be it known that the ordained ministers of the Muscle Shoals Association, together with the deacons of the same, are the Presbytery of this association, all of whom are ex-officio members.

2nd.—The object of the Presbytery is the mutual improvement of the ministry, their protection against hostile influences, and their purification by casting out unworthy members.

3rd.—The Presbytery has exclusive jurisdiction and control over the official character and standing of all ordained and licensed preachers under its control.

4th.—The Presbytery adopts a constitution, by-laws and regulations by a majority vote not inconsistent with Baptist principles and usages.

5th.—When a church desires the license of a preacher or ordination of a minister, it requests the Presbytery to examine the candidate and if it thinks proper, license and ordain him.

6th.—Before license or ordination the candidate is examined as to the gifts, grace and usefulness, including his personal piety, his call to the ministry, his adoption and devotion to the work, his doctrinal sentiments and his general acceptance with the public.

7th.—In ordination there is a presentation of the Bible, a prayer of consecration, a charge and a hand of fellowship given.

8th.—A minister from another denomination, having first been received by a local church and recommended by it, is examined in the same way, though with special care as to his doctrinal sentiments. But if he has been ordained by an evangelical church, his ordination is accepted as valid and a certificate given him to that effect.

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STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	Rec. by Ex.	Rec. by Letter	Rec. by Conf.	Rec. by Res.	Dis. by Letter	Expelled	Dead	Total Membership	Contributions	No. Deacons	No. Ordained Min	No. Licentiates	Church Property	Amount Given Pastor	Amount Given Evangelist	Amount Given Home Missions	Other Expenses	Meeting Days
East Florence	0	0	23	5	2	1	0	93	\$ 4.00	4	4	0	\$4,500.00	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$ 8.46	\$15.00	All
Cave Springs	3	2	8	0	11	1	1	59	4.15	8	0	0	2,500.00	35.00	17.99	5.55	3.80	4th S.
Fellowship	0	1	5	0	0	3	0	33	2.00	4	3	1	600.00	32.72		2.65	4.00	1st S.
New Home	0	0	3	0	0	15	1	46	2.50	3	1	0	800.00	46.06			80.98	2nd S.
Hickory Flat	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	23	1.00	3	0	0	600.00	28.83				2nd S.
Iron City	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	49	4.00	6	1	0	2,000.00	39.80		4.50	24.30	3rd S.
State Line Grove	11	0	1	0	0	1	1	88	3.50	4	0	0	500.00	88.50			3.50	4th S.
Union Hill No. 1	7	0	0	6	0	0	1	83	5.05	4	2	0	1,500.00	51.08	6.75		5.00	4th S.
Butler's Grove	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	64	2.00	3	0	0	100.00	13.22			5.15	3rd S.
Russellville	0	0	2	0	2	24	1	30	1.60	3	1	0		38.00	28.50		14.00	2nd S.
Oak Grove	0	0	3	1	2	0	2	129	3.00	3	1	0	2,150.00	58.00			19.38	1st S.
Lopp Chapel																		
Highland	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	16	2.40	2	0	0	600.00	10.90		3.60	25.00	4th S.
Elk River Chapel																		
Cordova	7	3	7	0	5	1	1	209	5.00	4	0	3	2,027.00	337.37			6.50	2nd 4th S
Canaan	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	35	2.00	1	0	0	300.00	47.75	10.80	7.75		4th S.
Mt. Olive	10	0	23	0	0	0	1	34	1.90	1	1	0	150.00				20.00	All S.
Sweetland Chapel	0	17	27	0	0	2	0	44	5.00	3	0	0	1,000.00	28.70	35.00			1st S.
Freedonia																		
Total	40	25	112	12	22	49	11	1035	\$49.60	56	14	4	\$20,327.00	\$945.93	\$149.04	\$32.52	\$226.61	

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Preachers	Sermons	Prayers	Rec. in Church	Baptized	Vis. S. Homes	Fun. Preached	Ordained Dea.	Ordained Min.	Pastor Ch.	Held Com. Ser.	Con. Pray. Meet.	Attended S. S.	Held Revivals	Miles Traveled	Money Received	Traveling Expenses	Married Coup.	Organize Ch.	Organize S. S.
W. C. Dowdy	77		30	10	5	2	2	2	2	2	10	40	2	1461	\$31.09	\$53.58	8	0	0
J. B. Bloss	102	73	93	12	14		4		3	1	12	39	6	3593	422.75	28.15	3	1	0
George Kelley	177	235	37	31	15	6	4		6	5	16	26	9	2450	349.72	28.62	2	0	1
Ed Caperton	116	175	21	15	36	2	3		5	4	6	35	7	2226	170.51	35.51	0	0	1
John Morton	80	85	38	25	10	2	3			5	10	10	4	1000	35.00	15.00	3	0	0
J. S. Ricketts	7	36				6					7	35		136			0	0	0
G. B. Wooten	79	65	23	18	10				1	4	15	25	1	2565	16.90	20.00	2	0	1
J. L. Arnold	41	55	19	13		4	2	1	1	1	3		3	1295	50.00		0	0	0
B. H. Coker	24	112	7	7	22		2	1	1		28	55		106		14.52	0	0	0
J. D. Chappin	200	261	56	23	20	1	6		2	5	10	50	10	1434	186.62	59.13	0	2	1
A. J. Lambert	4	20			2						7	25					0	0	0
Dora Stafford	100	50			75	1			1	2	25	35	2				2	0	1
D. H. Simmons	11	75			5						15	52		185		5.00	0	0	0
Joe Davis	13	100			10						25	52		200		2.00	0	0	0
O. R. Smith	4	20			4					2	3	20	2	274		10.68	0	0	0
Colonel Pendleton	12	20									1	4	1	70	.95		0	0	0



